

## Kulturakademie Tarabya in Istanbul awards Turkish-German co-production scholarships for the first time

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**The first recipients of the Turkish-German co-production scholarships at Kulturakademie Tarabya in Istanbul have been announced. The jury selected three artist teams from more than 80 applications: Oda Projesi & Nadin Reschke (Fine Arts), Emre Koyuncuoğlu & Simon Wachsmuth (Performing Arts) and Dicle Beştaş & Didem Yazıcı (Publishing/Cultural Theory). The Kulturakademie is operated by the German Embassy in Ankara; the Goethe Institute bears the curatorial responsibility. The Allianz Kulturstiftung is responsible for funding the scholarships for the Turkey-based artists.**

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The first generation of the new Turkish-German co-production fellows at the Kulturakademie Tarabya (Tarabya Cultural Academy) explores social, historical and political questions through art. From 80 applications, three teams have been selected, focusing on issues such as curating and researching intersectional feminism, the experiences of women during the COVID-19 pandemic or the history of Turkish-German cultural exchange. The teams will begin their four-months residences on the shores of the Bosphorus on 1 October 2021.

Esra Küçük, managing director of the Allianz Kulturstiftung: *"I am very happy with the strong response to the call for the new co-production scholarships. More than 160 artists have teamed up to keep exchange across borders and between cultural spaces alive during times when artistic freedom is frequently under attack. I thank all applicants for their work, and I congratulate the six selected artists on winning a great fellowship."*

The co-production scholarships were awarded by an independent jury alongside the regular individual fellowships at the Cultural Academy. All in all, 22 artists were selected from 330 applications; incoming fellows include writer Yade Yasemin Önder, musician İpek İpekçioğlu, playwright Necati Öziri and action artist Jean Peters.

The Kulturakademie Tarabya announced the co-production scholarships for the first time in October 2020, for stays in Istanbul between October 2021 and September 2022. Both tandem partners will each receive a monthly stipend to realise their joint artistic project. The tandems will be integrated into the activities of the residency programme. Applications can be made through the Tarabya Cultural Academy.

Further information about the project and CVs of the fellows can be found under: [https://kulturstiftung.allianz.de/en\\_EN/projects/tarabya-koproduktionsstipendien.html](https://kulturstiftung.allianz.de/en_EN/projects/tarabya-koproduktionsstipendien.html)

Allianz Kulturstiftung is a not-for-profit cultural foundation for Europe. The aim of the Foundation is to strengthen cohesion in Europe using the tools of art and culture. The Foundation is committed to translocal art and culture projects in Europe and the Mediterranean region. Over the coming years, it will focus its strategic work on the following thematic areas. It will promote an open society while adopting a decentralised approach to Europe and driving forward digitalisation for the common good.

### **About the Kulturakademie Tarabya**

The Kulturakademie Tarabya was founded in 2012 at the initiative of the German Bundestag (German Federal Parliament), enabling artistic exchange between Turkey and Germany. It is located on the grounds of the Historical Summer Residence of the German Ambassador in Tarabya, on the European side of Istanbul, about 15 km north of the city centre. The Kulturakademie is run by the German Embassy in Ankara and is part of the cultural outreach of the German Embassy in Turkey. The Goethe Institute bears the curatorial responsibility for the Tarabya Cultural Academy. So far, a total of around 100 cultural practitioners have been supported, including musician Cymin Samawathie, visual artist Nevin Aladag and author David Wagner.

### **Jury and Advisory Board**

The five members of the current jury include the filmmaker and director Feo Aladag (chair), the director of the Museum Ludwig in Cologne Yilmaz Dziewior, the Islamic scholar and journalist Rainer Hermann, the jazz pianist and composer Julia Hülsmann and the managing director of the Allianz Kulturstiftung Esra Küçük. The jury was appointed by the advisory board of the Kulturakademie.

The advisory board consists of representatives of all parties of the German Bundestag, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Federal Foreign Office and the Goethe Institute. The Academy's advisory board also advises on the conceptual guidelines for the Kulturakademie.

### **CVs of the 2021/2022 Fellows**

#### **FINE ARTS**

**Oda Projesi** is an artist collective based in Istanbul; composed of Özge Açıkkol, Güneş Savaş and Seçil Yersel. Starting in the year 2000, their apartment in Galata functioned as a non-profit independent space, hosting projects, gatherings and acts up until 2005, when Oda Projesi was evicted due to gentrification. Since then Oda Projesi has a mobile status and continues to raise questions on space and place, creating relationship models by using different mediums like radio stations, books, postcards, newspapers; depending on and respecting the creativity of Istanbul and its citizens. Oda Projesi has been also concerned with the relationship between the artistic production and its "precariousness". Recently, after all the members became mothers, the same questions have shifted to how the artistic production is affected out of being an artist parent.

**Nadin Reschke** born 1975 in Bernburg, lives and works in Berlin. She studied art and art therapy in Wales and Dresden. In her Work, Reschke puts an emphasis on social topics and often collaborates with people external to the art world. She initiates dialogues and creates a frame for social action. Reschke's works have been shown in many exhibitions and published in multiple volumes. She is the recipient of numerous awards and residency fellowships.

#### **PERFORMING ARTS**

**Emre Koyuncuoğlu**, born 1956 in Istanbul, is a theater director, playwright and translator. She studied anglistics at Boğaziçi University and theater sciences at Istanbul University. She has worked at prestigious theaters both in Turkey and abroad, for example in France, Great Britain and in Freiburg, Germany, where she showed an interpretation of Nathan the Wise (Lessing). Currently Koyuncuoğlu is deputy artistic director at Istanbul's municipal theaters, curator for open air performances at Sakıp Sabancı Museum and instructor at Koç University.

**Simon Wachsmuth**, born 1964 in Hamburg, is a media and concept artist living and working in Berlin. He studies painting and visual communication at the University for applied arts in Vienna. His works have been shown in various solo and group exhibitions, for example at Documenta 12 (Kassel), at the Istanbul Biennale (2009) and Busan Biennale (2012). The construction and reconstruction of historical narratives is a central topic of his work. Simon Wachsmuth has been awarded numerous awards, such as the MARTA award of the Wemhöner Foundation and the Outstanding Artist Award of the Chancellery in Vienna.

**PUBLISHING / CULTURAL THEORY**

**Dicle Beştaş** is an independent curator and writer based in Diyarbakır. Since 2019 she has been working as the coordinator of Loading, a non-profit independent art space. Her curatorial work is inspired by ecofeminism, collective and discursive processes as well as paracuratorial activities. She is the founder of Nawa Architecture Studio in Diyarbakır. Recently she curated the group exhibitions *Scraping the Crust* (2021) at the Loading Art Space and *Collective Works* (2020) at A4 Atölye, both in Diyarbakır. Beştaş graduated from Kocaeli University, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Department of Architecture in 2018.

**Didem Yazıcı** is an independent curator and writer based in Karlsruhe, Germany. Her curatorial work is inspired by thinking across disciplines in and outside of art – engaging social and political histories – the potentiality of exhibitions as socio-poetic spaces. She has worked and curated exhibitions at art institutions such as the Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Künstlerhaus Stuttgart; organized public programmes for dOCUMENTA (13), worked as a curator for the Infra-curatorial Platform of the 11th Shanghai Biennale and was Curator-in-residence at the Goethe Institute in Cairo. She studied Art History at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Istanbul and at the Städelschule and Goethe University in Frankfurt.